

LISTING AND AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS:

1. – 23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A method for isolating disseminated tumor cells from a cell-containing body fluid, consisting essentially of passing a cell-containing body fluid or part thereof that comprises a disseminated tumor cell through a screen having a mesh or pore width of about 15 to 30 μm to separate non-cancer cells from disseminated tumor cells, wherein the disseminated tumor cells are retained on the screen, and wherein the body fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood and bone marrow, wherein the disseminated tumor cells are not modified prior to screening by labeling, by attaching particles, by triggering aggregation, by triggering cluster formation, with antibodies, enzymes, lectins, other ligands, other receptors or cross linking agents or by fixing.

25. – 27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) A method for isolating disseminated tumor cells from a cell-containing body fluid, consisting essentially of separating cellular components from non-cellular components in a body fluid that comprises a disseminated tumor cell to obtain a cell-containing fraction; resuspending the cell-containing fraction in a suspension medium; and passing the resuspended cell-containing fraction through a screen having a mesh or pore width of about 15 to 30 μm to separate non-cancer cells from disseminated tumor cells, wherein the disseminated tumor cells are retained on the screen, and wherein the body fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood and bone marrow, wherein the disseminated tumor cells are not modified prior to screening by labeling, by attaching particles, by triggering aggregation, by triggering cluster formation, with antibodies, enzymes, lectins, other ligands, other receptors or cross linking agents or by fixing.

29. (New) The method according to either claim 24 or 28 wherein the screen has a mesh or pore width of about 20 μm .

30. (New) The method according to either claim 24 or 28, comprising removing from the screen the retained disseminated tumor cells.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein removing the retained disseminated tumor cells comprises passing a liquid through the screen in a direction opposite to that in which the body fluid or part thereof or resuspended cell-containing fraction is passed, to obtain a cell-containing wash liquid.

32. (New) The method according to either claim 24 or 28, wherein the body fluid is blood.

33. (New) The method according to either claim 24 or claim 28, wherein the body fluid is bone marrow.